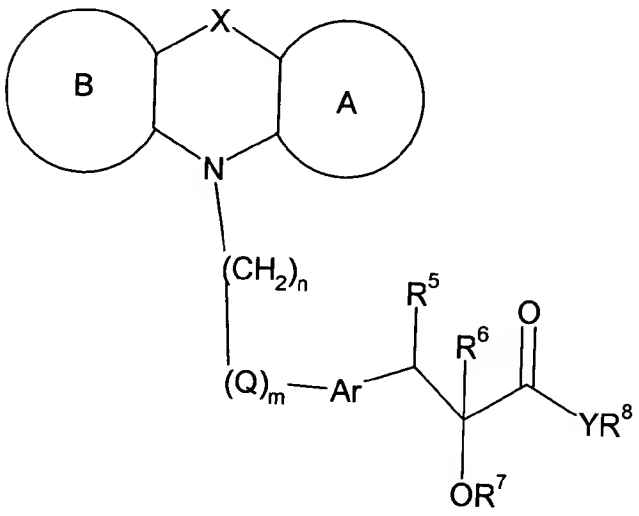
CLAIMS LISTING

Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A compound of formula (Ia)



(Ia)

wherein ring A, fused to the ring containing X and N, represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, C_{1-12}alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-12}alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-12}alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}alkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkylthio, thioC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycar-bonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{11}, or -SO_2R^{12}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

ring B, fused to the ring containing X and N, represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, or C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, C_{1-12}alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-12}alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-12}alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}alkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkylthio, thioC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycar-bonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{11}, or -SO_2R^{12}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, perhalomethyl, C_{1-6}alkoxy or amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

X is -(CHR^9)-CH_2-, -CH=CH-, -(CHR^9)-CH=CH-, -(CHR^9)-CH_2-CH_2-, -CH=(CR^9)-, -(CO)-(CHR^9)-, wherein R^9 is hydrogen, halogen, hydroxy, nitro, cyano, formyl, C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyalkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-12}alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, aralkoxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}alkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-12}alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkylthio, thioC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{11}, or -SO_2R^{12}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-6}alkoxy, amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl;

Q is -O-, -S-, >SO_2, >NR^{13}, wherein R^{13} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl,

Ar represents arylene, heteroarylene, or a divalent heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl or aryl;

R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-12}alkoxy, C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R^5 forms a bond together with R^6,

R^6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-12}alkoxy, C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, acyl or aralkyl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano; or R^6 forms a bond together with R^5,

R^7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxyC_{1-12}alkyl, C_{1-12}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C_{1-12}alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups, optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}alkyl, C_{4-12}-alkenynyl, C_{2-12}-alkenyl, C_{2-12}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, nitro or cyano;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR^{10}, where R^{10} represents hydrogen, C_{1-12}alkyl, aryl, hydroxyC_{1-12}alkyl or aralkyl groups or when Y is NR^{10}, R^8 and R^{10} may form a 5 or 6 membered nitrogen containing ring, optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 1 to 4 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1,

provided that A or B does not represent phenyl;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

2. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring A, fused to the ring containing X and N, represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, C_{1-}

$_{7}$alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-7}alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-7}alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxyC_{1-7}alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-7}alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-7}al-kyl, C_{1-7}alkylthio, thioC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxycarbonylamino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{11}, or -SO_2R^{12}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more C_{1-6}alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1, wherein ring B, fused to the ring containing X and N, represents a 5-6 membered cyclic ring optionally substituted with one or more hydrogen, halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy, cyano, or C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, C_{1-7}alkoxy, aryl, aryloxy, aralkyl, aralkoxy, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl, heteroaralkyl, heteroaryloxy, heteroaralkoxy, acyl, acyloxy, hydroxyC_{1-7}alkyl, amino, acylamino, C_{1-7}alkyl-amino, arylamino, aralkylamino, aminoC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxyC_{1-7}alkyl, aryloxyC_{1-7}alkyl, aralkoxyC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkylthio, thioC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxycarbonyl-amino, aryloxycarbonylamino, aralkoxycarbonylamino, -COR^{11}, or -SO_2R^{12}, wherein R^{11} and R^{12} independently of each other are selected from hydroxy, perhalomethyl or amino optionally substituted with one or more

C_{1-6}alkyl, perhalomethyl or aryl; optionally substituted with one or more halogen, perhalomethyl, hydroxy or cyano.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16 (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is -O- or -S-.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar represents arylene, heteroarylene, or a divalent heterocyclic group optionally substituted with one or more

C_{1-6}alkyl or aryl;

R^5 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl; or R^5 forms a bond together with R^6,

R^6 represents hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, C_{1-7}alkoxy, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl; or R^6 forms a bond together with R^5,

R^7 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxyC_{1-7}alkyl, C_{1-7}alkoxycarbonyl, aryloxycarbonyl, C_{1-7}alkylaminocarbonyl, arylaminocarbonyl, acyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl groups;

R^8 represents hydrogen, C_{1-7}alkyl, C_{4-7}-alkenynyl, C_{2-7}-alkenyl, C_{2-7}-alkynyl, aryl, aralkyl, heterocyclyl, heteroaryl or heteroaralkyl;

Y represents oxygen, sulphur or NR^{10}, where R^{10} represents hydrogen, C_{1-7}alkyl, hydroxyC_{1-7}alkyl;

n is an integer ranging from 2 to 3 and m is an integer ranging from 0 to 1.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein A is 5 membered cyclic ring containing S.

24. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein B is 5 membered cyclic ring containing S.

25. (Cancelled)

26. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein n is 2.

27. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Q is -O-.

28. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein m is 1.

29. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Ar is phenylene.

30. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^6 is H.

31. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^7 is ethyl.

32. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein Y is oxygen.

33. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 wherein R^8 is H.

34. (Previously presented) The compound according to claim 1 which is:
3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid,
3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-propoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[2-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-ethyl]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[1-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-methoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propoxy]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-ethoxy-propionic acid,

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-methoxy-propionic acid, or

3-{4-[3-(8,9-Dihydro-3,5-dithia-4-aza-cyclopenta[*f*]azulen-4-yl)-propyl]-phenyl}-2-benzyloxy-propionic acid;

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient, the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by nuclear receptors, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

44. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of diabetes, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the compound is in a unit dosage form in the amount of between 0.05 to about 100 mg.

51. (Previously presented) The pharmaceutical composition of claim 36, wherein the compound is in a unit dosage form in the amount of between 0.1 to about 50 mg.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the compound is administered by oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.

53. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of obesity, the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, wherein the compound is administered by oral, nasal, transdermal, pulmonary, or parenteral administration.

55. (Previously presented) A method for the treatment of conditions mediated by the Peroxisome Proliferator-Activated Receptors (PPAR), the method comprising administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the compound according to claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.